Pike Hits CIA on Lost Data

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Rep. Otis G. Pike (D-N.Y.), who chaired the House intelligence committee, accused the Central Intelligence Agency yesterday of "running a media event" last week designed "to discredit our committee" with a story that 232 classified agency documents sent to the committee were missing.

In a speech on the House floor, Pike said his committee staff members found 105 of the supposedly missing documents Monday among committee files stored at CIA headquarters.

Pike said CIA officials were unable to produce signed receipts for another 95 of the documents showing the papers had been delivered to the committee.

A CIA spokesman took issue with Pike's description of what had been found.

"I am not disputing that the staff found (105) documents," he said, "but that has not been verified."

He said the committee staff members "said they found" missing documents "stapled together with other papers." But, the spokesman went on, that finding "was not verified" and the committee staff "declined to return to CIA [yesterday] to resume the inventory."

The CIA spokesman also said flatly the 95 documents without signed receipts had "been supplied to the committee . . . in large packages with signed courier receipts." Unsigned detailed

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letters of transmittal inside those packages were returned to the CIA "in a batch," the spokesman said.

A Pike committee staff member said that among the 95 documents for which receipts were missing were some that had been read at CIA headquarters by committee investigators but never taken from the agency building.

The CIA spokesman said the agency had "no argument or complaint with the committee" but "merely an interest in locating what we considered missing documents."

"None of this would have come about without the media blowing it up," the spokesman said.

Pike charged that the missing document story was "created by the CIA and leaked by the State Department" on March 3 as a "domestic covert operation." He said that the leak falsely described the missing documents as "loaned" to the committee.

"Those documents belong to the House," Pike said and read from a Feb. 5 letter to him from CIA Director George Bush that noted that the classified material "on loan" had been returned to the CIA by the committee.

Pike told his colleagues that the Bush letter went on to say an inventory of the committee files sored at the CIA showed some documents apparently were missing.

Pike said he asked the CIA on March 1 for descriptions of the documents supposed to be missing and inquired who had signed receipts for them. He said that information was promised to him on March 4, after the media carried the accusation that documents were missing, but that he has never received it.

Meanwhile, he said, the administration had a "media weekend" and made no effort to correct the misinformation as to who owned the documents.

Pike said the purpose of the missing document story was to "discredit our committee so members of Congress would not read our report." In a news conference Pike later said, "I think the Ford administration very much does not want the report read."

Pike accused the CIA of having poor records that are "misindexed." He said: "They don't know what they have."

Pike said the committee had returned a top-secret document on the coup in Portugal and the CIA had alleged it was missing because their records showed it was 12 pages long and the committee had returned nine pages.

Sarcastically, Pike declared "the first three pages are in Roman numerals. They couldn't even add nine plus I, II, II and come up with 12."

In a second speech yesterday Pike expanded on his earlier statement that the administration was seeking to dissuade people from reading the unpublished committee report. "It shows our intelligence community is drowned in red tape and buried under tons of paper . . . has prejudiced political judgments and is dangerously weak."

Pike said that the Village Voice, a New York weekly, had printed portions of the "semifinal version" of the report, one that was completed on Friday, Jan. 23. That was one day after two copies of an earlier draft were given to the CIA and one copy to the State Department.